

## Essential Pillars for Responsible Behavioral Healthcare Reform

As Colorado continues its behavioral health reform efforts, CBHC urges stakeholders and policymakers to prioritize these policies we believe are necessary to achieve lasting and meaningful change:

- **Organize and align behavioral health policy across state departments**
  - **Ensure payment models blend funding and are sustainable, flexible, and tied to value**
  - **Coordinate care at the point of service**
  - **Create meaningful opportunity for regular input from consumers and local communities**
  - **Center on consumer experience and be culturally inclusive**
- ❖ **Organize Behavioral Health Policy Across State Departments**  
The way that Colorado state government is organized to finance and regulate behavioral health is fragmented and unnecessarily complex. It is critical that governance models are organized and aligned so that more resources are dedicated to service delivery rather than excessive administrative functions. Behavioral health reform must align policy and support innovation across payors and must include Medicaid and private insurance to ensure a truly comprehensive plan.
- ❖ **Sustainable Payment Models Tied to Value & Blended Funding**  
Coloradans deserve to have access to the appropriate level of care when they need it, and payment structures should sustain the capacity of community based behavioral health providers regardless of fluctuations in volume. Colorado’s current fragmented funding mechanisms contribute to the maintenance of “wrong doors” and inaccessibility. True blending of public resources (Medicaid, general fund, human services, etc.), done thoughtfully, will reduce administrative complexity and create a more seamless client experience. Providers must be held accountable to value by demonstrating clear outcomes, and Colorado must reduce our reliance on volume-driven payment models. Payment models should support a comprehensive continuum of care – from prevention through recovery – that is flexible to meet current and emerging community need.
- ❖ **Care Coordination at the Point of Service**  
Consumers need support to navigate the complex health care system – at the point of care, where it is most effective. Value based payment models for providers should include care coordination, case management, and utilization management services to support access to the right care at the right time and to incentivize seamless referrals to other entities as necessary.
- ❖ **Meaningful Opportunities to Engage Consumers and Local Communities**  
For Colorado’s behavioral health system to work for all Coloradans, there must be clear and meaningful opportunities for consumers, providers, and community stakeholders to regularly provide direction to payors, policy makers, and state departments.
- ❖ **Culturally Competent, Consumer-Centric Care**  
For any model redesign to be considered successful, the model must result in a system with pathways to care that provide the client with a positive experience that meets them where they are. Services must be culturally inclusive and responsive, allowing for individualized care planning. Client experience upon entry into behavioral health care should be based on presenting need rather than administrative requirements or payor source.